



# MAPBD WATCHDOG

## Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs Legislative Alert

mapbd.org

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### HB 4168

**DESCRIPTION:** HB 4168 is a bill to amend the Dog Law of 1919.

**MAPBD POSITION:** **MAPBD SUPPORTS THIS BILL.** MAPBD urges its members and all responsible dog owners to contact their Legislators to **SUPPORT** this bill.

**DISCUSSION:** **HB 4168 deletes the section requiring county sheriffs to locate and kill all unlicensed dogs in their respective counties.**

### MAPBD SUPPORTS THIS BILL FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- The Dog Law of 1919 was originally enacted during a time when rabies was a serious public health threat. Dogs which were not licensed were a public nuisance and were quickly destroyed to protect the community from possible exposure to rabies.
- In 1919 there was no available canine rabies vaccine. Today, rabies vaccinations are available and the incidence of canine rabies is rare.
- Current county ordinances allow delinquent owners to pay a late fee and redeem their dogs, which are considered property under Michigan law.
- Most counties now maintain animal shelters and put unclaimed or seized dogs up for public adoption, rather than destroy the animals. Money from adoption fees helps support these shelters.
- Failure of county sheriffs to immediately destroy all unlicensed dogs under current law constitutes "nonfeasance."
- **HB 4168** would protect sheriffs from charges of "nonfeasance" and better serve the community by allowing the adoption of unwanted or seized dogs as pets, from which both adoption fees and license fees would be generated.

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**MAPBD** is a Michigan non-profit organization founded in 1964. Its members and member clubs advocate for responsible dog ownership and work to protect the rights of Michigan citizens to own, breed, and enjoy their dogs.

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